



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



(As I've not been in the office much the past month, I thought I would do a "rerun" of an article we had published before. This article comes from the September 2014 SELS SoLiS newsletter, but

still applies today.)

There are a fair number of librarians in our field who contend that libraries are more about community connections than about books, myself included. Books are just one of the tools that librarians use to connect people to information and entertainment. It turns out that this idea isn't as new as you may think. Take a look at this quote attributed to Melvil Dewey (yes, THAT Melvil Dewey):

"A library's function is to give the public in the quickest and cheapest way information, inspiration, and recreation. If a better way than the book can be found, we should use it."

For someone who is famous for figuring out a logical way to shelve books, it is interesting that he is quoted as saying that we should be willing to look beyond the book, even back at the beginning of the 20th century.

Books are wonderful tools, but they aren't our only tools. As an analogy, let's look at current episodes of "This Old House". They are there to take a building,

which has been put through a lot, and give it new life and a new vibrancy for the people who will be spending time in it. When they work on it, they use a combination of traditional and new tools, methods and materials. Sometimes the craftsmanship of a hammer and chisel is what is needed to get just the right effect. Other times the speed and durability of self-leveling, quick drying cement is what is needed to get that new basement floor done in time for the next part of the project. In the end, using the entirety of their toolbox, they get the house to be what the homeowners need.

So are you keeping things "old school" just because you can or because it is really the best thing for the community? On the flip side, are you pushing every new idea in librarianship because it is new and shiny, or because the community needs that new thing?

So what good are librarians in this new age of librarianship? They are the ones that know which tool to pull out of the toolbox – just like Norm Abrams on "This Old House", and just like Melvil Dewey back in the day.

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Calendar

September 16, National Play-Doh Day

September 20, [CASTL, Nebraska Library Commission, Lincoln, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the NLC"](#)

September 22, Hobbit Day

September 23-29, [Banned Books Week](#)

September 25, Comic Book Day

September 26, National Johnny Appleseed Day

September 29, National Ghost Hunting Day

October, National Cyber Security Awareness Month

October 1, International Coffee Day

October 2, National Name Your Car Day

October 4-6, [NLA/NSLA Joint Conference](#), Cornhusker Mariott, Lincoln

October 8, Columbus Day, SELS OFFICE CLOSED

October 7-13, [Teen Read Week](#)

November 30, Summer Reading Workshop, Walt Branch Library, Lincoln, "A Universe of Stories"



Photo of the Month



How many librarians would like a Ferris Wheel located across from their library? At our last CASTL on August 24th, SELS librarians witnessed this sight across from the Falls City Library and Arts Center (building on the right).

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

September 20
Nebraska Library
Commission,
Lincoln
“Everything You Ever
Wanted to Know About
the NLC”

October 19
Jennifer Reinke Public
Library, Deshler
“Sharing of Annual
Reports”

November 9
Alice M. Farr Library
Aurora
“Bibliostat”

In these days of stagnant or reduced funding, libraries are increasingly looking to find grant dollars. While grant opportunities are limited and come with conditions, a grant can be very useful. For that reason, “Grants” was the topic of our CASTL discussion in Falls City.

The Nebraska Library Commission has Library Improvement Grants, Youth Grants for Excellence, and an Internship Grant Program. The Commission does not always have the money to fund each of these every year, so to discover more information go to <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants>

The Kreutz Bennet Donor Advised Fund provides Planning Grants, Enhancement Grants, and Facilities Grants to libraries serving communities of fewer than 3,000.

Further examples include Dollar General, which provides Adult, Family, and Youth Literacy grants, as well as a Summer Reading Program Grant. The Pilcrow Foundation provides grants of hardcover children’s books. Walmart and Best Buy provide grants, often for merchandise from their stores. It is a good idea to see what other local franchises and businesses may be able to donate to help your library. Farmers who farm a certain number of acres can nominate a library or school to receive a grant from Monsanto. Railroad foundations, or the entities that own the railroad tracks that run through town, are worth a try. Certain Thrivent volunteers can designate Thrivent Choice dollars to the library.

Several people talked about regional, county, or city foundations, as well as a youth engagement and enrichment grant from the Nebraska Community Foundation as sources of funds.

Government loans and grants can come from the USDA. State sources of funding for construction or renovation projects are the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF) or the Community Development Assistance Act (CDAA).

Sources of funds for capital improvement projects can include the Sherwood Foundation, the Kiewit Foundation, the Daugherty Foundation, the Sunderland Foundation, the Abel Foundation, and more.

For more information, email Todd at todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com for a copy of the handouts used at CASTL. Many thanks to Joy Stevenson and Donna Kruse for their contributions!

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

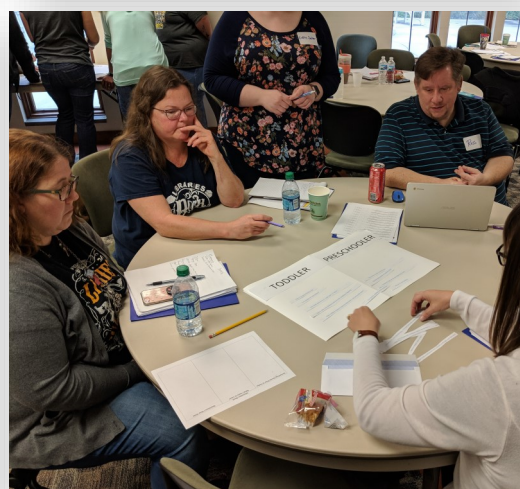
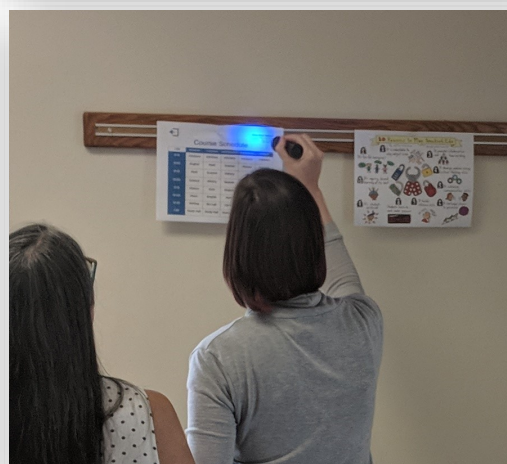
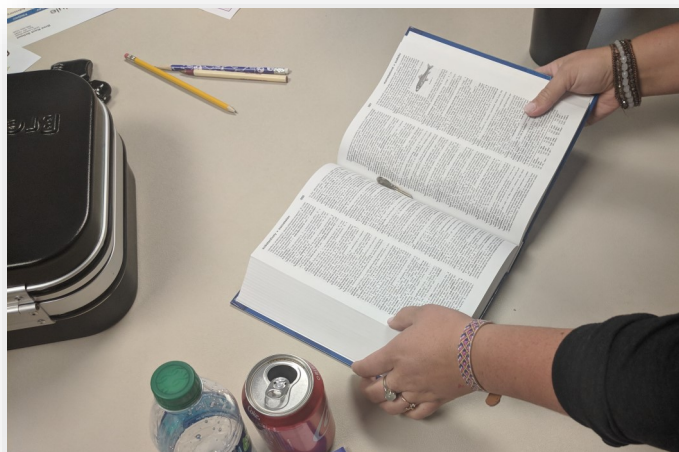
To see the list of 2018 classes, [click here](#). Here’s what’s coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
Oct. 1—Oct. 12	Community & Library	Sept. 3—Sept. 21
Oct. 22—Nov. 2	Management/Supervision	Sept. 24—Oct. 12
Nov. 5 —Nov. 16	Leadership	Oct. 8 —Oct. 26

News Around the System

Joint Youth Services Retreat Highly Rated

There were a ton of positive comments this year, as library staff learned about developmentally appropriate practices for youth, the collection of graphic novels, mental illness, Breakout EDU kits, grants, and much more.



News Around the System

Pawnee City Public Library Runs Out of \$\$\$!!!

Story and photos by Colleen Morehead

But it's a good thing!

The 2018 summer reading program at Pawnee City Public Library was such a tremendous success the readers broke the bank. For each book read, the reader was paid 1 book buck to be used at the end of the program in the Book Bucks Bargain Store. With 10 days to go, the end was in sight but the bank was empty. Readers kept reading and the library issued IOUs. In the end, everyone got their money and spent it.

To celebrate such amazing success all participants and their families were invited to the end of summer picnic and swimming party. The hungry readers were fed hot dogs provided by our local meat market, corn-on-the cob, chips and a drink. After eating most attendees took a refreshing dip in our newly renovated swimming pool. Afterwards everyone enjoyed ice cream bars while receiving their awards.

Final stats for the Libraries Rock summer reading program at the Pawnee City Public Library were: 1747 books read by 75 participants. The 5th graders at Pawnee City Public School won the traveling trophy to display in their classroom, besting all other classes by reading 350 books. The top single reader was a 5th grader who earned an individual trophy.



News Around the System

Daniel Tiger Visits York's Library

By Deb Robertson

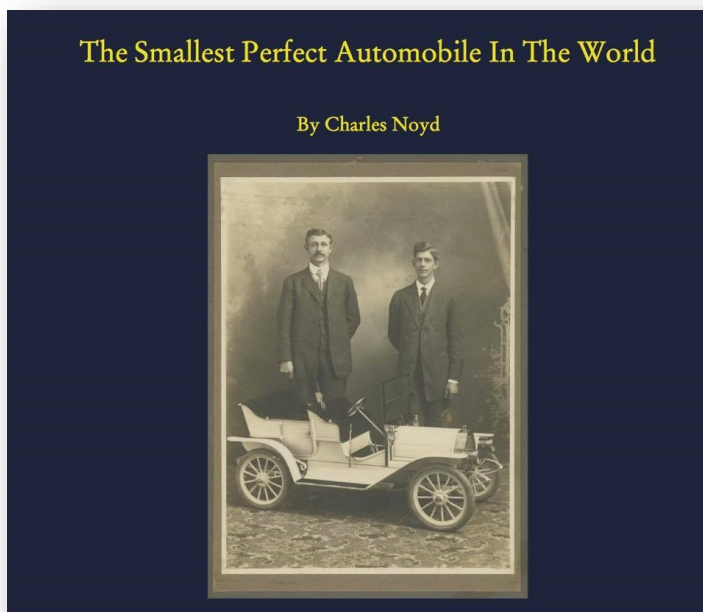
Kilgore Memorial Library was lucky enough to be a site that Daniel Tiger visited while in Nebraska. The attached photo was taken by library staff while a group of children from a local day care had their time with Daniel Tiger. There were 178 children and 106 adults for a grand total of 284 people here for this wonderful event.



The Amazing Swanson Brothers of Stromsburg

By Emily Tandy

On August 28, our Stromsburg genealogy club hosted Chales Noyd to speak on his research and self-published book on Stromsburg's own Amazing Swanson Brothers. The presentation was billed as "A glimpse into the creative minds of Alex and Nels Swanson and the building of 'The Smallest Perfect Automobile in the World'". Fifty-five patrons attended to learn about the brothers and their tiny vehicle. They were especially delighted when Mr. Noyd brought out a wheel and door given to him by the current owner that were salvaged from the latest restoration.



News Around the System

Paintings Displayed in Milligan

Story and photo by Shirley Brunkow

The Milligan Public Library has two oil paintings on display this month from two local artists. The picture on the left was painted by Wally Fogel of Milligan. It is a painting of The Green Space on the Main Street of Milligan that is a Veteran's Memorial. Wally volunteers his time to keep the Green Space attractive.

The painting on the right was painted by Jo Zelenka Hawley of rural Milligan. She entered it in the art show on the Wilber Czech Festival and received best of theme and People's Choice awards. The title of her painting is Ceska Dudecka, translated to Czech Miss playing Bagpipes. The painted gourd was also done by Ms Hawley.

The library is honored to have these talented artists displaying their work.



Farmer's Market at Palmyra Memorial Library

Story and photo by Glenda Willnerd

The Palmyra Memorial Library held its first ever "Farmer's Market" at the library with donations from the garden of Phil Willnerd, husband of Director, Glenda Willnerd. Library patrons could choose from pumpkins, squash, gourds, and peppers. The event was well attended and freewill donations were accepted for the library. Melissa Lindeman and her daughter were two happy shoppers.



News Around the System

Faibury Public Library Holds First STEAM Program

Story and photos by Linda Dux

Saturday, September 8th, the Fairbury Public Library kicked off it's first STEAM program. Mr. Gabe Dux joined us and led the children's exploration of computer towers and their parts. The library had 5 non functioning computer towers in storage. The children learned how to discharge the stored energy in a tower prior to taking the computer apart. Then learned what each part is and what it does! The boys and girls really enjoyed taking the computers apart!

When we finished, we discussed ways that we could use the parts to build a "spaceship" for the Summer Reading Program.



November 30th!

SELS Summer Reading Program Workshop
10-3, Walt Branch Library, Lincoln

START APPLEJACK WEEKEND WITH A "BANG!"



JESSE JAMES

Presented by Jeff Barnes

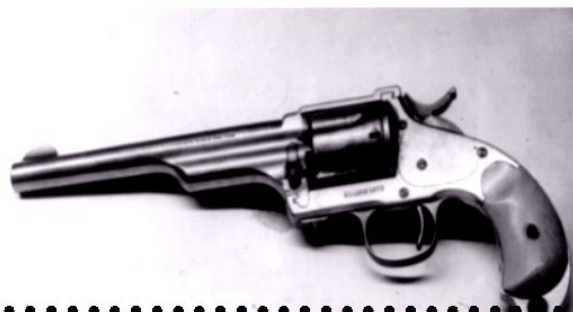
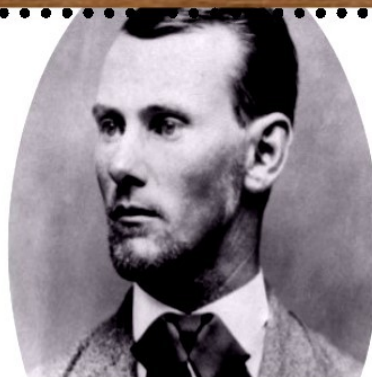
Morton-James Public Library

Thursday, September 20 at 7pm

THE JESSE JAMES STORIES
A WEEKLY DEALING WITH THE DETECTION OF CRIME

No. 113.

Price, Five Cents.

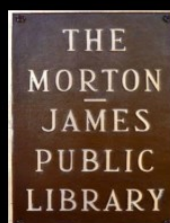


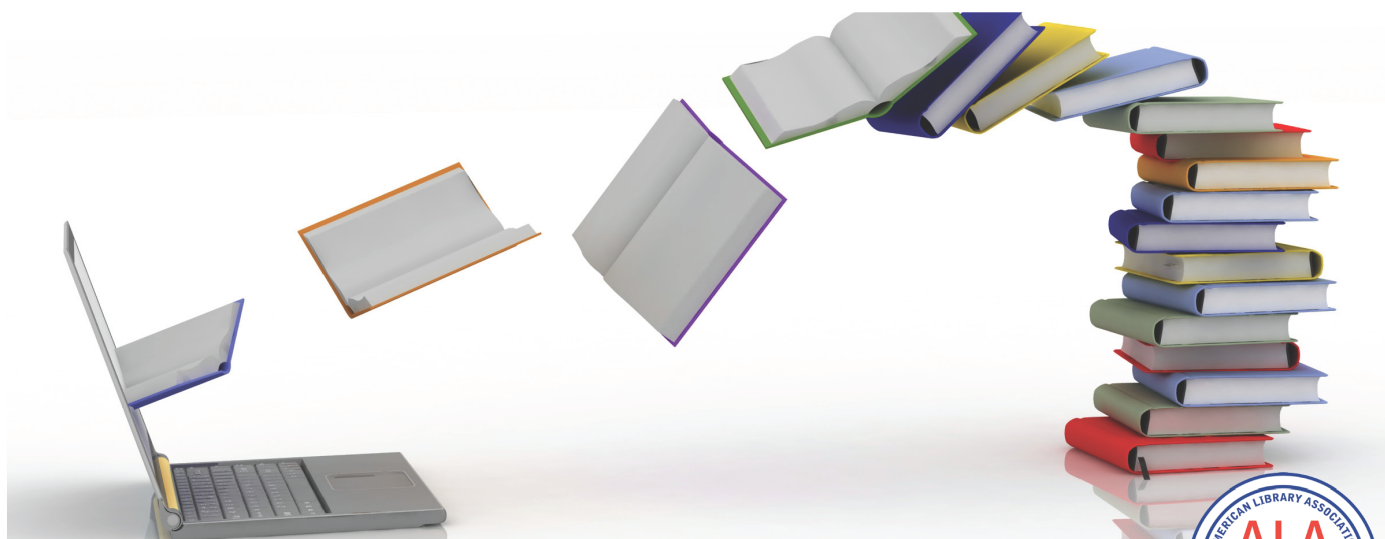
Learn about the outlaw and his Nebraska connections.

Morton-James Public Library

923 1st Corso Nebraska City (402) 873-5609

Program is free and everyone is welcome to attend!





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 - ▶ GRE not required
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System Spotlight

Need to do Inventory? We can help!

If you feel an inventory is needed at your library, there are two things we can do to help:

- Loan you a laptop and scanner, as needed.
- Demonstrate in person, at your library, how taking inventory works. That way we can get you up and running so that you can perform your inventory with confidence!



It is easiest if you have a cart on which you can transport the laptop and scanner as you move along your shelves—it makes inventory much faster!

Southeast Library System

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

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Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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